

HEARING THE CHILDREN'S CRY

A DEMONSTRATION
BY
DOROTHY DODD

Order from Literature Headquarters, Lambuth
Building, Nashville, Tenn.

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EPISODE I. The Young Girl's Vision.

EPISODE II. The Scarritt Girls' Work for the World's Children.

EPISODE III. "Jesu Bambino" ("Joy to the World").

CHARACTERS WITH SUGGESTED COSTUMES.

The Young Girl. In modern dress.

Twelve Little Children dressed as children of the world—kimonos, Chinese, and Korean, and other costumes.

Pleasure. Pretty party dress.

Childhood. Little girl in modern dress.

Christianity. Young girl in white.

Gold. Young girl in yellow dress.

Labor. Young girl in dark dress.

Scarritt. Young girl in white dress with green accessories.

Home Missionary. Young girl in modern dress.

Deaconess. Deaconess uniform.

Missionary Nurse. Young girl in nurse's uniform.

Foreign Missionary. Young girl in modern dress.

Little Child. Poorly dressed.

Heralds. Twelve-year-old girls in simple herald costumes.

Shepherds. Shepherd costumes and crooks.

Three Wise Men. Straight dark tunics with couch covers draped over shoulders with head drape.

Mary. In white.

Joseph. Dark tunic and head drape.

EPISODE I.

(*Young Girl sitting by open fire, picks up book from the library table and reads*):

"Do you hear the children weeping, O my
 brothers,
 Ere the sorrow comes with years?
 They are leaning their young heads against
 their mothers,
 And that cannot stop their tears.
 The young lambs are bleating in the meadows,
 The young birds are chirping in the nests,
 The young fawns are playing in the shadows,
 The young flowers are blooming toward the
 west—
 But the young children, O my brothers,
 They are weeping bitterly!—*E. Browning.*

[She sighs and picks up her Bible and reads]:

"And a little child shall lead them." We must
 teach the children, and then too, if the people of
 the world we are to reach, it is through the chil-
 dren we must teach the nations of the living
 Christ.

[She walks across the room, returns to library table, picks up book of poems and reads]:

"O, li'l lamb, out in de col'
 De Mastah call you to de fol',
 O li'l lamb!
 He hyeah you bleatin' on de hill
 Come hyeah an' keep yo' moanin still,
 O li'l lamb!
 De Mastah sen' de shepud fo'f:
 He wandah Souf, he wandah No'f
 O li'l lamb!
 He wandah Eas' he wandah Wes'
 The win' arenchin' at breas'
 O li'l lamb!
 O tell de Shepud whaih you hide
 He want you walkin' by his side,
 O li'l lamb!
 He know you weak, He know you so'
 But come, don' stay away no mo',
 O li'l lamb!
 An' atah while de lamb he hyeah
 De shepud's voice a-callin' cleah—
 Sweet li'l lamb!
 He ansawah from do brambles thick
 O sheep 'Ise a-comin' quick—
 Yo' li'l lamb!"

—*Pau! Laurence Dunbar.*

YOUNG GIRL [*speaks*]. It seems in everything I read, I hear the children calling to me. Did this thing just happen that I should have read from these books to-night: No, I think God must be speaking to me. Yes, the children must have a chance to hear of him—the little white children, the brown children, the yellow children, the red children, the little black children, all the children must know of him, because he said: "There must be one fold and one Shepherd." O it seems I hear the children calling me, and what am I doing to help them? Truly, I am doing nothing, nothing! [*Young girl looks up with such earnestness.*] O Father, here am I, send me—O Father, if there is any little child in the world that needs me, wilt thou not lead me to that little child that I may lead that little one to thee?

[*Girl sits by the table with her head on her folded arms, as the world children in different costumes come forward and sing "Bring Them In," or Hymn 677, "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us." Exit girl and children.*]

EPISODE II.

[*Enter Pleasure with Childhood. Pleasure hands big red balloon to Childhood, who tosses it playfully, as Pleasure speaks.*]

PLEASURE. I am Pleasure. Give me the children of the world, for I will make them happy. It is fun and pleasure the children seek—

[*Childhood has a needle which she thrusts secretly in the balloon, and it immediately goes down. Childhood is disappointed when her balloon shrivels and starts to cry.*]

CHRISTIANITY [*entering*]. Listen, my child, you cannot trust Pleasure, she is deceitful,

"Pleasures are like poppies spread,
You grasp the flower, it's bloom is shed.
Or like the snowflakes on the river,
A moment white, then gone forever."

[*Gold enters boastingly.*]

GOLD. I, Gold, bid for the children. Childhood, do you not know Gold is much better than Pleasure, because Gold can always buy pleasure. Come, go with me. I, Gold, enter into the market places of the world, I sit with kings in great

palaces, I go in great ships across the sea. Childhood, surely you will follow me, come see what I offer.

[Childhood starts when Labor enters.]

LABOR. I, Labor, bid for the children. Come, Childhood. I will give you long hours and money for your hire. Come, hear the song of the mills. In winter I will take you on long trips to the Southland to work in the oyster industry. In summer back to the Northland we go for berry picking. Come, I will offer you work from early childhood even down to old age.

[Childhood tries to hide behind Gold. Gold and Labor try to get Childhood.]

GOLD. You know that Childhood wishes to go with me, she does not heed your offer.

LABOR. Ah, Gold, you have not stopped to think that I have far more children with me than you have with your gifts. I can prove this.

[Childhood starts with Gold when Christianity enters.]

CHRISTIANITY. Stay, Childhood, do not go with Gold, for she does vanish with the using. None of these can make you happy. Since the early dawn of history Childhood cannot do without me, Christianity. Gold, you, Pleasure, and Labor know that all three of you cannot satisfy the heart of a little child.

[Christianity raises her right hand and points to the door. Little child looks up into the face of Christianity, trusts her fully. Childhood throws her arms around Christianity. Gold, Pleasure, and Labor exit. Christianity calls to her daughter.]

CHRISTIANITY. Come, Scarritt, my daughter, show to Childhood what some of your daughters are doing for the children of the world.

[Enter Scarritt.]

SCARRITT. O Childhood, have you not heard how we love you, have you not heard what we are doing in His Name for the children of the world? Let me call some of my daughters and ask them to tell you what they are doing, and yet they will not tell you all. Would you not like to hear?

CHILDHOOD. O yes, I do want to know what is being done for the little girls and boys everywhere. I would love to hear.

SCARRITT. Then you shall hear. First I will call my Home Missionary. Come, Home Missionary.

HOME MISSIONARY. My work is for our little children in the cotton mills and for our mountain children, and for those in our crowded city Churches. In every way I can, I try to teach the children to laugh and love and live, because you know Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

SCARRITT. Childhood, she did not tell you all, she is too modest. Come, my daughters, come tell Childhood who you are and what you are doing for the children.

[*Enter Deaconess, Missionary Nurse, Foreign Missionary. These stand near Childhood.*]

DEACONESS. I teach among our little Latin children with their happy, sunny smile. In the summer I teach in a big Daily Vacation Bible School, and then in winter I teach in the Saturday Afternoon Bible School. O such good times we have, as we learn and play and sing together. How we love our Bible stories and verses. And I just wish you could hear the children sing "Stand Up for Jesus," and hear them say John iii. 16 in their own language. If you will come to see me I will tell you a story about a little girl named Angelina Speranza.

MISSIONARY NURSE. And I am a missionary nurse. I try to heal their little bodies. One time I used to work in our big Children's Clinic here at home, but we have so many doctors and nurses in America that I felt the little children in Korea needed me, and I have been over there in a big hospital, and yet it is not big enough, for there are so many sick children there. O I'm so glad I know the children of Korea and that I can help them.

MISSIONARY KINDERGARTNER. Childhood, what do you think I do? I teach in a kindergarten in Japan. Most of the time I am in China, and when I go back I will have all my work in China. I return next month and I can hardly wait to sail.

"Ah, the Chinese streets are dirty, and the Chinese people queer

But after all they are just like us, and the Master holds them dear.

You ask if I'm going back to face the guns again?

Like soldiers home on furlough, my only thought is, 'When'?

I'm going back to 'the trenches' to get another shot:

I fight beside my Captain; if I fall, that matters not.

So I'm going back to China and over the sea I'll fare,

My home's in the homeland, but my heart's over there."

[*Little Children with good voice sing "I think when I read that Sweet Story" Hymnal, No. 672, or "Jesus, Friend of Little Children," No. 120, Primary and Junior Hymnal.*]

YOUNG GIRL. O Scarritt, may I not come and be one of your daughters. I have heard the children calling me. Now after hearing what the Scarritt daughters are doing for all the children I so long to go to Scarritt, that I may be prepared to teach the children, O may I not go?

SCARRITT [*places one arm around young girl and leads her to little child that has just sung, saying*]. Yes, you may come to Scarritt, and we will send you out to meet this child's need. Listen, my little child, before you called He did answer, and while you were speaking he did hear. Jesus is a friend to little children and he will be a friend to you. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. O, my Scarritt daughters, you have wrought nobly, but greater things than these shall ye do. "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God."

[*Group sings "Jesus Loves Them All." See page 9.*]

SCARRITT. Come, my daughters, Christmas is drawing near, come let us hear the old, old story.

EPISODE III.

[*Music played softly "It came upon a midnight Clear." Two twelve-year-old girls as heralds advance. First speaks.*]

HERALD. And in the sixth month the angel

Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee named Nazereth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said unto her, Thou shalt bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews for we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.

SECOND HERALD. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you this day is born in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising and saying, Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us go now, even to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass which the Lord hath made known unto us, and they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

[These two heralds remove screens or curtains showing the manger, with large electric light in it. Mary is seated while Joseph stands. Three wise men with gifts enter from the rear coming through the center isle. Shepherds come from either side. Group around manger, some kneel; others stand.]

FIRST HERALD. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

SECOND HERALD. And thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins

[Every one who has had any part in the pageant comes forward and kneels facing the manger. Let the manger be the center of your grouping.]

SCARRITT.

"May He the unseen Guest abide,
Within your heart this Christmastide
That ever through the years to be,
The Christ may be revealed in thee."

CONGREGATION and all sing together sing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," Hymnal, No. 125, or "Joy to the World," Hymnal, No. 107.

JESUS LOVES THEM ALL.

(Tune: "Narina." 604 Methodist Hymnal.)

BY ELLASUE WAGNER.

We're messengers of Jesus here,
We're children of the King;
We're sent to tell earth's children dear
That Jesus loves them all.
O, Jesus loves the little ones,
Yes, Jesus loves them all;
We're sent to tell the children dear
That Jesus loves them all.

Across the rolling ocean's foam,
Where China's millions throng,
Hungry and cold, in fear they roam,
But Jesus loves them all;
In Africa, the land of night,
Their gods are stocks and stones,
The children have not seen the Light,
But Jesus loves them all.

The children, too, of fair Japan
All need our Saviour's love;
They romp and play, a happy band,
And Jesus loves them all.
Under their cruel conqueror's sway,
Korea's children sigh;
But he will bring a brighter day,
For Jesus loves them all.

America, land of the free,
Yellow or black or brown,
In city street, where'er they be,
Our Jesus loves them all.
They come to us from o'er the sea,
These thousands in their need;
We'll hear their call, we'll heed their plea,
For Jesus loves them all.

Woman's Department, Board of Missions, Methodist
Episcopal Church, South, Lambuth Building,
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